

Faith & diversity calendar 2016

January

27th Holocaust Memorial Day

Holocaust Memorial Day is an international event marking the liberation of the Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1945, and is a time to remember those murdered in the Holocaust and under Nazi persecution, and during subsequent genocides, including Cambodia, Bosnia, Rwanda and Darfur. It is also an opportunity to hope for a safer, inclusive society where the differences between us are respected as reality today and in the future.

Croydon will be marking the day with an event and a public candle-lighting ceremony in the foyer of Croydon Town Hall at 12 noon on Wednesday 27 January. The theme for 2015 is 'Keeping the memory alive', whether individually or as groups we can make links, forge connections and reach out to different communities.

February

1-28th Lesbian Gay Bisexual Trans History Month

In February 2015, Croydon will celebrate Lesbian Gay Bisexual Trans (LGBT) History Month. The council is working with local LGBT groups such as Crocus and Croydon's Area Gay Society on a series of events will take place throughout the borough. These events are designed to raise awareness and celebrate the contribution made to the life of the community.

If you want to know more about what's happening in Croydon or to publicise an event please visit: www.croydon.gov.uk/lgbthistorymonth

4th World Cancer Day

World Cancer Day is led by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) and with the support of the World Health Organization (WHO) to raise awareness of cancer prevention. This year's tagline is 'Not beyond us' and takes a positive and proactive approach to the fight against cancer.

5th LGBT Big Night Out

The Braithwaite Hall in Katharine Street is the venue for the formal launch of the LGBT History Month programme of events and a chance to celebrate Croydon's LGBT community with live music, a bar and hot food.

8th Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year is the longest and most important festivity in the Chinese calendar

March

8th International Women's Day

International Women's Day is celebrated in many countries around the world. It is a day when women are recognized for their achievements without regard to divisions, whether national, ethnic, linguistic, cultural, economic or political. It is an occasion for looking back on past struggles and accomplishments, and more importantly, for looking ahead to the untapped potential and opportunities that await future generations of women.

9th Commonwealth Day

Commonwealth Day is an opportunity to promote understanding on global issues, international co-operation and the work of the Commonwealth's organisations, which aim to improve the lives of its citizens. It takes place on the second Monday in March every year.

21th International Day of the Elimination of Racism

The International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is observed annually on 21 March. On that day, in 1960, police opened fire and killed 69 people at a peaceful demonstration in Sharpeville, South Africa, against the apartheid "pass laws". Proclaiming the Day in 1966, the General Assembly called on the international community to redouble its efforts to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination.

21st World Down Syndrome Day

World Down Syndrome Day is a global awareness day which has been officially observed by the United Nations since 2012.

22nd World Water Day

International World Water Day is held annually to focus attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating water cooperation.

April

2nd World Autism Awareness Day

Autism is a lifelong developmental disability that manifests itself during the first three years of life. The rate of autism in all regions of the world is high and it has a tremendous impact on children, their families, communities and societies. The United Nations General Assembly unanimously declared 2 April as World Autism Awareness Day to highlight the need to help improve the lives of children and adults who suffer from the disorder so they can lead full and meaningful lives.

23rd St George's Day

Saint George is the patron saint of England.

May

8th VE Day

Victory in Europe Day or VE Day commemorates May 8, 1945, the date when the World War II Allies formally accepted the unconditional surrender of the armed forces of Nazi Germany and the end of Adolf Hitler's Third Reich.

16th - 22nd Mental Health Awareness Week

Mental Health Awareness Week is an annual event to campaign on an issue that is related to the mental health of the general population.

15th International Day of Families

The Day was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly resolution in 1993 and reflects the importance the international community attaches to families. It provides an opportunity to promote awareness of issues relating to families and increase the knowledge of the social, economic and demographic processes affecting families.

17th International Day against Homophobia

In 2008, sexual relations between persons of the same sex were punishable by death in 7 countries and considered to be some form of crime in more than 80 others. In most countries in the world, people from the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, intersex, queer, community are being denied their fundamental human rights as defined by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The Day has been launched with the idea of creating a worldwide community of activists and committed people, sharing the ideal of a world without homophobia or transphobia in which everyone can freely live their sexual orientation and the gender identity they wish to live in.

16th - 22nd National Vegetarian Week

Celebrated by the Vegetarian Society since 1992, National Vegetarian Week is the annual awareness-raising campaign promoting vegetarian food and lifestyles.

21st World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development

Further to the adoption of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity by UNESCO on November 2001, the General Assembly proclaimed 21 May the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development. The Day provides us with an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the values of cultural diversity and to learn to "live together" better. UNESCO continues to promote greater awareness of the crucial relationship between culture and development and the important role of information and communication technologies in this relationship.

June

1st - 7th Volunteer's Week

Now in its 28th year, the Week is the focus of a wide range of activities carried out by groups and organisations up and down the country. It can attract significant media attention, providing a great boost to community groups and all volunteer involving organisations.

1st - 30th Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month

One of the aims of the month is to counter-balance the widespread ignorance of Traveller communities that often leads to hatred and conflict. Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History month celebrates the culture and history by tackling the negative stereotyping and prejudices that have led to this situation.

5th Big Lunch

Once again, as many people as possible can take this chance to mix with their neighbours and get involved in supporting this annual get-together- a great excuse to get to know people, try new things and have a party! Applications need to be submitted to the council by 1 May for the Big Lunch on 5th June 2016. www.thebiglunch.com

6th - 12th Carers Week

Six million carers in the UK dedicate their time providing unpaid care to a relative or friend who is ill, frail or disabled. Because of the time and energy they give to looking after their loved ones, carers often have difficulty in pursuing their own activities. They may miss out on basic things that most of us take for granted: a weekend away, opportunity for promotion, a nice meal, even the chance to have a long bath or a full night's sleep. Carers Week calls for greater support for carers to allow them to maintain a life of their own.

13th - 19th Men's Health Week

The purpose of Men's Health Week is to heighten the awareness of preventable health problems and encourage early detection and treatment of disease among men and boys.

19th Father's Day

Father's Day is a widely known celebration honouring fathers and celebrating fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the influence of fathers in society.

20th World Refugee Day

The UN General Assembly designated that, from 2001, 20 June would be celebrated as World Refugee Day.

20th - 26th Refugee Week

Refugee Week is a unique opportunity to discover and celebrate the contributions refugees bring to the UK. During Refugee Week many events take place across the UK, all of which explore refugee experiences.

26th International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

The day was created by the United Nations General Assembly to demonstrate solidarity to all whose mind, body or spirit have been impacted by torture. The United Nations General Assembly selected the date to honour June 26 1987, the day the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment came into effect. The convention was created to reaffirm that the equal and inalienable rights of the human family are the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world.

July

18th Nelson Mandela Day

Mandela Day is a call to action for individuals - for people everywhere - to take responsibility for changing the world into a better place, one small step at a time, just as Mr Mandela did for more than 67 years. An idea for this event is to offer 67 minutes to community service on Mandela Day and then make every day your Mandela Day by doing some good for others.

August

12th International Day of Youth

In 1999, the United Nations General Assembly endorsed the recommendation made by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth that 12 August be declared International Youth Day. The Assembly recommended that public information activities be organized to support the Day as a way to promote better awareness of the World Programme of Action for Youth, adopted by the General Assembly in 1995.

23rd International day of remembrance of the slave trade and abolition

The United Nations dedicated 23 August each year as the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition, to pay tribute to the tireless struggle of the slaves for their freedom.

September

8th International Literacy Day

International Day of Literacy is dedicated to keeping literacy high on national, regional and international agendas, to create a literate world and promote literacy for all.

21st International Day of Peace

The International Day of Peace provides an opportunity for individuals, organizations and nations to create practical acts of peace on a shared date. It was established by a United Nations resolution in 1981 to coincide with the opening of the General Assembly.

October

1st - 31st Black History Month

The origins of Black History Month go back to 1926 when Carter G Woodson, editor for thirty years of the Journal of Negro History, established African Caribbean celebrations in America. The aims are to promote knowledge of the Black History, Cultural and Heritage, disseminate information on positive Black contributions to British Society and heighten the confidence and awareness of Black people to their cultural heritage.

1st International Day of Older Persons

On December 14, 1990 the United Nations General Assembly voted to establish October 1 as the International Day of Older Persons. The holiday is celebrated by raising awareness about issues affecting the elderly, such as ageing and dementia. It is also a day to appreciate the contributions that older people make to society.

4th Sewa Day

Sewa Day celebrates the idea that we all depend on each other at some time in our lives. It is a day when everyone can come together to give something back to their community. Projects might relieve hardship, help the environment or simply bring a little joy to people's lives. To find out how to get involved visit www.sewaday.org

10th World Mental Health Day

World Mental Health Day raises public awareness about mental health issues. The Day promotes more open discussion of illnesses, and investments in prevention and treatment services. WHO statistics for 2002, show that 154 million people globally suffer from depression - just one form of mental illness.

17th International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

This presents an opportunity to acknowledge the effort and struggle of people living in poverty, a chance for them to make their concerns heard, and a moment to recognize that poor people are the first ones to fight against poverty. Participation of the poor themselves has been at the centre of the Day's celebration since its very beginning.

November

11th Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day and the Two Minute Silence have been observed since the end of the First World War, in remembrance of those who fought for our freedom during the two World Wars. It is now also an occasion to mourn and honour those who have lost their lives in more recent conflicts.

13th Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday, the second Sunday in November, is the day traditionally put aside to remember all those who have given their lives for the peace and freedom we enjoy today. On this day people across the nation pause to reflect on the sacrifices made by our brave service men and women.

16th International Day of Tolerance

The International Day for Tolerance is an annual observance declared by UNESCO in 1995 to generate public awareness of the dangers of intolerance.

20th - 26th Inter Faith Week

National Inter Faith Week is held every November, to bring people of different faiths together to serve their communities and learn more about each other. Inter Faith Week:

- Highlights the good work done by local faith, inter faith and faith-based groups and organisations
- Draws new people into inter faith learning and cooperation
- Enables greater interaction between people of different backgrounds
- Helps develop integrated and neighbourly communities
- Celebrates diversity and commonality
- Opens new possibilities for partnership

20th Universal Children's Day

First proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1954, it was established to encourage all countries to institute a day, firstly to promote mutual exchange and understanding among children and secondly to initiate action to benefit and promote the welfare of the world's children. It was also chosen as the day to celebrate childhood.

25th International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

Women's activists have marked November 25 as a day to fight violence against women since 1981. On December 17, 1999, the United Nations General Assembly designated 25 November as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

December

1st World Aids Day

World AIDS Day has become one of the most recognised international health days and a key opportunity to raise awareness, commemorate those who have passed on, and celebrate victories such as increased access to treatment and prevention services.

3rd International Day of Disabled Persons

The Day aims to promote a better understanding of disability issues with a focus on the rights of persons with disabilities and gains to be derived from the integration of persons with disabilities in every aspect of the political, social, economic and cultural life of their communities.

The goal of full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in society and development was established by the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1982.

10th International Human Rights Day

Human Rights Day recognizes the work of human rights defenders worldwide who act to end discrimination. Acting alone or in groups within their communities, every day human rights defenders work to end discrimination by campaigning for equitable and effective laws, reporting and investigating human rights violations and supporting victims. While some human rights defenders are internationally renowned, many remain anonymous and undertake their work often at great personal risk to themselves and their families.

18th International Migrants Day

International Migrants Day is an international day observed on December 18 as International Migrants Day appointed by the General Assembly of United Nations on December 4, 2000 taking into account the large and increasing number of migrants in the world.